

ART. III.—*Observations on the Microscopical Characters presented by a Mineral (Dysodil) from Tasmania.*
By THOMAS S. RALPH, Esq., M.R.C.S.

[Abstract of paper, original read 27th May, 1861.]

The author shewed that the mineral was a kind of shale, containing, besides a bituminous substance, a large amount of Algæ, of a spherical form, which were preserved, from their being coated by a resinous substance.

ART. IV.—*On the Snakes of Victoria.* By PROFESSOR M'COY.

[Abstract, original read 17th June, 1861. Original paper lost.]

In this paper the characters were pointed out of all the snakes known in the colony, and specimens were exhibited of each species to the meeting at which the paper was read. The "Carpet Snake" (*Morelia variegata*) was the only harmless species; its close relation to the "Diamond Snake" (*Morelia spilotes*) of New South Wales, was referred to, in connection with the term "Diamond Snake" erroneously given to the poisonous forms experimented on some years ago in Tasmania, when the investigations published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Tasmania* were in progress, to determine the value of remedies for snake poison. The relation of the carpet snake to the *Pythons* of India was dwelt upon, and the statement, formerly published by the Society of the existence of a true *Boa* in Victoria, was shown to rest only on a mistaken identification of the character of the common carpet snake. The rare "Death Adder" (*Acanthophis antarctica*) was the only venomous snake with isolated fangs found in Victoria, although all the remaining snakes belonging to the *Colubridæ* gave poisonous and sometimes fatal bites from the poison fangs mixed with the solid teeth. Numerous examples were exhibited of the large poisonous "Brown Snake" of the colony, and the reasons for referring it to the *Pseudonaja nuchalis* and to the *Pseudoelaps superciliaris* were discussed. *Hoplocephalus superbus*, *H. curtus* or "Tiger Snake," *H. Gouldi*, *H. coronoides*, and a new species, *Hoplocephalus flagellum* (M'Coy), were exhibited and their characters pointed out. The latter